THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government had originally approved 30 TV channels for carriage on the DTH service, at an estimated cost of Rs. 164 crore, to provide multi channel TV coverage to uncovered and underserved remote areas. Presently this service comprises 33 TV channels (19 Doordarshan and 14 private TV Channels) and 12AII India Radio channels, which can be received anywhere in the country except Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Based on an internal review of demand of several private channels to join the Doordarshan's platform, the Government permitted Doordarshan to raise the number of TV channels in the DTH bouquet from thirty three channels to fifty. There are no separate revenues from DTH service, as all advertisements are an integral part of the individual TV channels' earnings. Since the DTH service is provided in a non-addressable mode, the Government does not have any information on the viewership. However, field reports suggest that about *42* million DTH receive systems have been sold in the open market as on July, 2005.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Unlike pay DTH service of a private service provider, no monthly subscription charges are required to be paid to receive the DTH transmission. Besides, a large number of private channels have expressed interest in being a part of DTH bouquet, which, if included in the service, is expected to enhance the penetration of DTH receive systems and hence the viewership, which is serving the public interest. Prasar Bharafi has also started examining the technical and commercial feasibility to further expand the capacity of DTH platform to cover one hundred channels.

(e) Does not arise.

**Lack of public toilets in Metro cities**

*276. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the best practices with regard to public toilets are missing in the Metro cities of the country;

(b) whether the world standards require a public convenience after every 1 km.;

(c) if so, the number of public toilets in each of the metros namely Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai as compared to 5539 toilets in London for 74 lakh population;

(d) whether the existing toilets are in a dilapidated state, particularly in Delhi, with unbearable stench suggesting inadequate maintenance and unsafe conveniences for the ladies; and

(e) if so, the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Public toilets are provided and maintained in metro cities by the municipal bodies. Due to intensive usage, these toilets are sometimes not in the desired levels of cleanliness and hygienic conditions. The municipal bodies are increasingly outsourcing the operation and maintenance of public toilets to expert agencies. This has resulted in overall improvement in the upkeep and maintenance of these toilets.

(b) As per the information available with the Ministry, no such standards have been prescribed.

(c) The number of public toilets in Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai and Kolkata are as nder:—

| Sl. No. | Name of City | No. of Toilets (approx.) | Population (in lakhs) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Mumbai | 12600 | 122 |
| 2. | Delhi | 2021 | 130 |
| 3. | Chennai (city) | 799 | 47 |
| •4. | Kolkata (city) | 750 Urinals + 126 Pay and use toilet complexes | 45 |

(d) and (e) As per information received from Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), public toilets are being maintained properly.

The maintenance of toilets complexes has been given to M/s Sulabh International by MCD for a period of 30 years.

**Double laning of bridge over Yamuna at Wajirabad**

†*277. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that 28 children died untimely in the bus accident on the bridge on Yamuna, very busy area of Wajirabad in the capital;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.